



MAKING WAVES

August 4th, 2015

Algal Bloom Season in full swing

This week marks the one-year anniversary of the Toledo drinking water crisis, and the Lake Erie algal bloom season is well underway. In the past year, many organizations and communities have worked to make progress on monitoring and mitigating the effects of harmful algal blooms and the associated toxin, microcystin. Toledo officials continue to monitor the water quality around the city's water intake crib, and many other municipalities in the region are informing citizens of any beach closings or other water quality concerns. Member municipality Chatham-Kent, Ontario, is keeping its citizens safe and healthy by notifying them of beach closure status. [Click here to read Executive Director David Ullrich's thoughts on the ongoing issue of nutrient pollution.](#)

U.S. Federal Initiatives: Obama announces Clean Power Plan, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative reports to Congress

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative group reported to Congress at the end of June and emphasized the impact of projects that have been funded over the past ten years. This key piece of legislation provides funding for many Areas of Concern restoration projects and works to keep the Great Lakes clean. [View a map of GLRI-funded projects here.](#)

On Monday, August 3rd, President Obama and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the amended Clean Power Plan. The proposed plan outlines strategies for a 32% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and includes state-by-state reduction guides that take into account the energy needs of different regions of the nation. [Read more about the Clean Power Plan here.](#)

U.S. Funding Opportunity – GLRI

On August 4th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a Request for Applications soliciting proposals for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants to fund new projects to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Up to \$13.9 million will be available during the 2015 funding cycle for grants to state, tribal, interstate and local governmental agencies, institutions of higher learning and other nonprofit organizations. This round of GLRI funding will target invasive species and urban and agricultural runoff. A webinar explaining the grant application process will be held at 10:00 a.m. Central time on Thursday, Aug. 13. [The Request for Applications and information about applying for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants is available here.](#) For more information about the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative visit www.glri.us. Applications are due September 28, 2015.

Canada moves towards federal-level microbeads ban

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that the Canadian government will move forward on a national microbeads ban after the publication of a scientific report outlining their detrimental effects on human health and the environment. [Read more here.](#)

Canadian Federal Election Called

The Canadian federal elections were called on Sunday, kicking off a campaign process that will last until the election on October 19th. The Cities Initiative plans to send position questionnaires to each party, and will publish comments once they are received.

Asian Carp found in Toronto waters

Two Asian Carp were caught and killed after being found in a Toronto pond. There is no evidence that the carp have entered the Great Lakes system, although the discovery of the carp has alarmed many citizens and leaders in



the Great Lakes region. An investigation of the carp is underway; [read more here](#). [Find information on Asian Carp on the Cities Initiative website](#).

The Québec Metropolitan Community in Action

The Québec Metropolitan Community's (CMQ) 2014 Annual report is now available on its website. Built around the theme "Planning at the metropolitan scale - Acting on a local scale", it states main realizations of the CMQ regarding integrated management of the St. Lawrence River, of urban and rural planning, environment, waste management, transportation and sustainable mobility. A particular emphasis has been invested on geomatics capabilities. By browsing through the report, readers will learn about the official launch of the Regional Dialogue Table on integrated management of the St. Lawrence, on the protection of the municipal water intakes and on the implementation of the metropolitan land use and development plan. [See the report here \(in French\)](#).

Membership

Please join the 114 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.

If your municipality would like to share news with the Cities Initiative, please email information to Laura Bretheim at laura.bretheim@glslcities.org